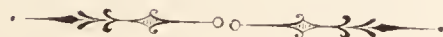


Annual Report
AS TO THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS
For the Year 1911.

BY
H. M. SPEIRS, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.



DISS
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE

DISS URBAN COUNCIL.

I herewith have the honour to present my **SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT** as your Medical Officer of Health.

1.—District.

(a) PHYSICAL FEATURES.

(b) GEOLOGICAL FEATURES.

These remain the same, and as they were given in detail in my Report of 1909 I shall not refer to them here.

2.—Chief Occupation of your Inhabitants.

This also has not changed since last year.

3.—House Accommodation.

For the 3,769 of your population, there are some 961 houses, 621 of which you might call cottages whose rent is below £8 per annum.

There is no doubt that there is a want for a certain class of houses or cottages in your district. Further, that unless private owners care to build, your Council will seriously have to consider becoming Landlords, especially when one considers the number of cottages which will eventually be condemned under the House Town Planning Act (1909).

The suggestion for the Council to pave certain yards and which has not yet been done, I hope to see carried out when the water mains are laid and one can expect less eruption of the ground.

4.—Sewerage.

You are in possession of a most excellent system of water borne sewerage which connects up the whole of the town with the exception of the east end, and the country to the north. Of the latter the Council need take no further notice, as the houses are too far apart to need connection with a public system of sewerage. But of the former I fear you will have seriously to consider some scheme, though I must admit there is no violent hurry, as the nature of the subsoil (sand and gravel) would almost allow owners to erect W.C.'s, running into open cess-pools.

My suggestion of having a proper Plan of the town sewerage system drawn up is now complete, and I have no doubt will prove useful in years to come.

5.—Rainfall, &c.

In 1910 one had to complain of the inclemency of the weather as a whole. I am sure all will agree that 1911 made ample amends, and that for once in a way we had a real Summer. In spite of the long spell of dry weather our total rainfall was only 5 inches short of the very wet season previously. [See Table].

Rainfall in 1911

at The Cedars, Diss, in the county of Norfolk.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with .01 or more recorded.
		Inches.	Date.	
JANUARY ...	1.39	.3	11	13
FEBRUARY .	1.23	.24	27	14
MARCH	2.51	.44	13	18
APRIL.....	1.02	.23	28	10
MAY	1.02	.66	14	6
JUNE	3.69	1.45	23	14
JULY .....	.98	.43	25	6
AUGUST ...	.50	.12	22	6
SEPTEMBER	1.88	.54	30	9
OCTOBER ...	2.55	.60	24	16
NOVEMBER.	3.22	1.12	18	20
DECEMBER.	3.74	.63	20	23
TOTAL ...	23.73			155

BAROMETER.—DISS, 1911.

Highest January 17	}	30.70.
„ 31		
February 1		
Lowest October 22-26		28.90.

THERMOMETER.

Maximum August 9th 92 degrees.

Minimum January 17th 20 degrees.

NOTE.—The Barometer fell from 30.0 to 29.1 on June 23rd, the day of the heaviest rainfall (1.45 inches).

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Uncorrected Number.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFER-ABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
			Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of residents not registered in the District.	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	3,800	78		20.5	43	11.3			4	51.2	41	10.7
1907	3,800	56		14.7	44	8.1			2	36.7	43	11.3
1908	3,800	82		21.5	42	11			3	36.5	41	10.7
1909	3,800	56		14.7	54	14.2			5	89.2	52	13.6
1910	3,880	88		23.1	42	11			5	56.8	40	10.5
1911	3,769	70	73	19.3	40	10.6	1	5	3	41	44	11.6

Total Population at all ages, 3,769.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 961. Average number of persons per house, 4.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 3625.

There is now no institution receiving sick and infirm people from outside the district.

6.—Zymotic Diseases.

DISEASE.	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	Average 21.2
Scarlet Fever ...	...	3	1	1	4	48	12	26
Diphtheria ...	2	...	...	1	...	14	5	16
Erysipelas ...	2	4	2	1	2	5	3	2	
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	1	9	4	...	2	...
	4	7	4	12	10	67	22	44	

In spite of my almost boasting remarks of the last two years I am again able to show a clean sheet as regards the notification of Zymotic Diseases this year, though there have been the usual epidemics among the schools of Measles, Whooping Cough and Sore Throats, &c., which will be discussed later under its proper heading.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1911.

URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 up.
Erysipelas	2	...	...	1	...	1
Diphtheria	2	...	2	...	...	...
Totals	4	...	2	1	...	1

In spite of the low number of notifications of Infectious Diseases the

7.—Zymotic Mortality

records one death from Post Diphtheritic Paralysis of the Heart.
[See note later.]

8.—Deaths.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1911.

URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	5 and under 15.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Diphtheria and Croup ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other tuberculous diseases ...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	6	...	...	...	...	4	2
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including pre- mature birth	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Violent deaths, excluding suicide	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Senectus	13	...	...	...	...	...	13
Other defined diseases ...	10	...	...	...	4	4	2
All causes	44	3	1	1	5	12	22

This Table shows only 2 more than last year, in spite of the fact that this number includes 5 residents of Diss whose deaths occurred outside my area. [There was only one death of a non-resident in Diss during the year.]

Tubercle accounts for 4 as last year.

Cancer „ „ 6 as against 4 in last year,

And my old friend "Senectus" once more has the majority with 13, 5 being over 80 years of age.

The rate is 11·6 per 1000 of the population. Of the total 44 deaths, 19 were males and 25 females.

TABLE IV.

*Infantile Mortality during the Year 1911.***DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS
UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.**

URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.					Under 1 Week.	6-9 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Diarrhœa (Epidemic)...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
					2	1	3

Nett Births in the Year—legitimate 68, illegitimate 5—73.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants 3, illegitimate infants 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 44.

9.—Infantile Mortality.

Meaning the Deaths from all Causes under the Age of 12 Months.

The total number is 3, of which one only lived a few hours, and only one died of epidemic diarrhœa, in spite of the long and very dry Summer.

As the births were 73, this makes a rate of 41 per 1,000, a very respectable figure.

10.—Births.

The total figure is 73, which is 10 above our average for the past 10 years. There were 27 males and 46 females, and 5 were illegitimate, and 3 of the 5 were born outside the district,

11.—Excrement Disposal.

Most of the new houses have been connected to the main sewers ; and as I reported in 1909, nothing further can be done in the matter till the town has a water supply.

12.—Water Supply.

" Though I am unable to say you have got a water supply," as I quoted in 1909, I am now pleased to be able to report that the scheme is well forward, and our engineer thinks that in all probability we will have the water into our houses this year. He is to be congratulated on the very handsome structure he has erected for your water tower, which is anything but an eyesore in the landscape.

13.—Supervised Premises.

DAIRIES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Your Inspector and I have made some 50 odd visits of inspection (*vide Form 752*).

Your Inspector has also been appointed Inspector of Milk Supply under the County Council, but I have always said the standard of milk in your area was excellent.

Since publishing my last report a very excellent set of Bye Laws have been adopted by your Council, though I regret that up to the present none with reference to Infants have been adopted.

14.—House Town Planning Act, 1909.

About 100 houses have been inspected, and four condemned, and considerable alterations and improvements ordered in the others,

But as your Council's time has been almost wholly taken up with extra work on the Water Works, the work in connection with the above Act has only been in Committee in 1911. Since then it has gone forward and will be reported on and tabulated in my report for 1912.

15.—Schools.

The Infant Department of the National School was closed from July 17th to 21st for Measles.

The Infant Department of the Council Schools from July 17th to 25th for Measles.

During the year I have had reported to me and personally examined some 82 children suffering from, or supposed to be suffering from, one or other of the Infectious Diseases. This is a very heavy department of one's work, for although by its method one is able to recognise and eliminate any possible source of infection, the work entailed is considerable.

In my young days if one wanted the day off one licked the bottom of a new loaf and presented a tongue, which looked like a genuine bilious attack. Now a child has only to say he has a sore throat and he can stay away when he likes.

The table shows the number of cases inspected :—

Diphtheria	2
Sore Throats	25
Scarlet Fever	0
Measles	36
Whooping Cough	6
Colds	6
Others	7
Total	<hr/> 82

In conclusion I have to thank my colleague, Mr. Cooper, for his valuable assistance to me in the year's work ; Mr. Taylor, for the Barometer readings, and you, Gentlemen, once more, for your unvarying courtesy to me in the past year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. M. SPEIRS, M.D.

*There is no Sanatorium for the treatment of Phthisis
in your district.*

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... }	46	2
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... }		
Total	46	2

4 —Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
	43
Total number of Workshops on Register	43

5.—Other Matters.

Class.	Number.
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :— In use at the end of the year (with Council's permission) ...	1

